

## CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Method of printing on a press,  
providing a printing run length of said press to be  
increased with a factor of at least 5 versus a reference  
run length, making use therefore of a lithographic printing  
plate, said method comprising the steps of:
- image-wise exposing to infrared light a heat sensitive  
imaging element, said element being optionally present on  
the press before starting said image-wise exposing step to  
infrared light, wherein said element comprises, on a  
lithographic base with a hydrophilic surface thereupon, an  
image-forming layer including hydrophobic thermoplastic  
polymer particles and a hydrophilic polymer binder, and,  
optionally, an infrared absorbing compound, wherein said  
hydrophobic polymer particles contain more than 0.1 wt % of  
nitrogen and have an average particle size diameter in the  
range from 0.015 to 0.15  $\mu\text{m}$ , and wherein said reference run  
length utilizes reference particles containing no or less  
than 0.1 wt % of nitrogen,
  - developing the image-wise exposed imaging element by  
mounting it on a print cylinder of a printing press and

applying an aqueous dampening liquid and ink to said imaging element while rotating said print cylinder, starting printing up to said increased run length.

2. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said hydrophobic polymer particles contain structural chemical groups selected from the group consisting of amide, urethane, methacrylonitrile, crotonitrile, vinylidene cyanide, isocytosine, pyrrolidone, piperazine, cyanomethyl, cyanoethyl, cyanopropyl, cyanoaryl, cyanoacrylate, primary amines, mono- or di- n-alkyl substituted amines, urea, imide, imine, triazine, sulfonamide, onium, melamine, pyrimidine, ureido-pyrimidone, pyridine, barbiturate, isocyanurate or imidazole.

3. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said hydrophilic polymer binder is a water-soluble, water-dispersable, alkali-dispersable or alkali-soluble polymer.

4. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein  
the hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles consist of  
a copolymer of monomers selected from the group consisting  
of styrene, tert.-butylstyrene, methylmethacrylate,  
peramethylstyrene, methacrylonitrile, N-alkyl substituted  
acrylamides, N-alkyl substituted methacrylamides and  
maleimides.
5. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein  
the hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles are present  
in the image forming layer in an amount of at least 50 wt%.
6. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, further  
comprising a second hydrophilic polymer binder in a layer  
adjacent to said image forming layer.
7. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein  
the infrared absorbing compound is an anionic infrared  
cyanine dye absorbing infrared radiation in the wavelength  
range from 800 to 1100 nm and wherein the infrared

absorbing compound is present in said image forming layer or in a layer adjacent thereto.

8. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic surface is a lithographic surface, present on a metal support, being a plate or a print cylinder.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (currently amended) Method of printing on a press, said

method comprising the steps of:

image-wise exposing to infrared light a heat sensitive

lithographic printing plate, wherein said lithographic printing plate comprises:

a lithographic base with a hydrophilic surface

thereupon, an image-forming layer including

hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles and a

hydrophilic polymer binder, and, an infrared

absorbing compound, wherein said hydrophobic

polymer particles contain more than 0.1 wt % of

nitrogen and have an average particle size diameter in the range from 0.015 to 0.15  $\mu\text{m}$ , developing the image-wise exposed printing plate by mounting it on a print cylinder of a printing press and applying an aqueous dampening liquid and ink to said imaging element while rotating said print cylinder, and printing.

13. (previously presented)      The method of claim 12 wherein said lithographic printing plate is present on said press prior to said image-wise exposing.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended)      Method of printing on a press, said method comprising the steps of:

image-wise exposing to infrared light a heat sensitive lithographic printing plate, wherein said lithographic printing plate comprises:

a lithographic base with a hydrophilic surface thereupon, an image-forming layer including hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles and a hydrophilic polymer binder, and, an infrared absorbing compound, wherein said hydrophobic polymer particles contain more than 0.1 wt % of nitrogen and have an average particle size diameter in the range from 0.015 to 0.15  $\mu\text{m}$ ,

developing the image-wise exposed imaging element by mounting it on a print cylinder of a printing press and applying an aqueous dampening liquid and ink to said imaging element while rotating said print cylinder, and

printing;

with the proviso that said printing is at least 5 times longer than printing when said hydrophobic polymer particles contain less than 0.1 wt% nitrogen and have an average particle diameter more than 0.15  $\mu\text{m}$  wherein said

lithographic printing plate is present on said press prior to said image-wise exposing.

17. (canceled)